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by Michael Collins Piper

U.S.-Israel Friction Develops Over China Arms Deals

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With the European Union on the verge of lifting its longstanding embargo on arms sales to China, the Bush administration is putting modest pressure of Israel to curb its own lucrative arms trade with China. The Chinese-Israeli arms nexus has been a longtime embarrassment to many Americans in the defense establishment who consider China a potential enemy.

Although defense experts have been concerned about Israel's continuing relationship with the Asian superpower, they are hesitant to criticize Israel's deals with China for fear of being accused of anti-Semitism.

As a result, Israel's ties to China are rarely mentioned and never criticized except in the most cautious terms.

Now, however, because Israel has continued to engage in arms deals with China, despite previous promises to curtail the trade, the Bush administration has set aside — at least for the time being — an agreement allowing Israel to participate in the ongoing development of a radically new fighter jet, the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF).

The program involves the sharing of highly sensitive technology. American patriots have been concerned about evidence that, time and again, Israel has shared U.S. defense technology with Israel's communist Chinese arms partners.

Although, on previous occasions, the United States has issued "warnings" to Israel about its cozy relationship with China, this has not stopped Israel.

Meanwhile, two Washington-based policy makers who are leading players in the pro-Israel neoconservative network have effectively admitted that Israel has been engaged
in a "dirty business" — selling arms to China — that constitutes "a genuinely hostile act against the United States."

Dan Blumenthal, former senior country director for China and Taiwan in the office of the secretary of defense, and Tom Donnelly, a member of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, made the charges in a commentary published in ***The Washington Post*** on Feb. 20.

Note, though, that the neocon duo didn't actually say those things about Israel. Instead, they charged that because the EU is preparing to scrap its embargo on arms sales to China that this is — in their words, a "dirty business" that is "a genuinely hostile act against the United States."

However, in passing judgment on the EU, Blumenthal and Donnelly didn't find it appropriate to mention that for decades Israel was the top supplier of arms to China, with much of that "Israeli" technology being of U.S. origin.

A journalist specializing in media critique, Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem***, ***The Judas Goats***, and ***Dirty Secrets***, all available from America First Books and First Amendment Books. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

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